

# IDAHO LOGGING SAFETY NEWS



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Dirk Kempthorne, Governor  
Dave Munroe, Administrator  
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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

*By David Kludt*

It's hard to believe another busy summer is about to wind down. By the time this letter goes out, some of you will have already shot your elk. Hopefully most of you will still have a month or two of work before the wet weather sets in and the snow starts flying.

Safety wise we had a good summer in the woods. Needless to say we did have our share of accidents but were able to avoid the serious ones. The same cannot be said for the log trucks out on the highways. I have seen and heard of many truck rollovers this summer. Luckily, most of them resulted in only minor injuries, however there was one very serious two-truck accident in which both drivers were killed! Basically, **DRIVING TOO FAST** caused these accidents. I don't know if the prices are too low, the trip expectations unrealistic, or if the drivers just want to get home early, but some of the rollovers I have seen could have been easily avoided. Luckily, nobody has dumped a load on a car full of people or a school bus full of kids.



I'll quit preaching. You really are doing an excellent job with the safety in the woods. Keep up the good work!



### Near Miss

A 98-Linkbelt operator narrowly escaped injury when the boom of the machine he was operating came over backwards. The logger was watching his skyline drum because he had a limited amount of line. He was walking the line machine around a point and didn't realize the tiebacks were getting tight. The boom came up against the boom stops, crushing them, and started over backwards. The boom had a cab protector welded on it, but when it went over it took the cab off the machine tipping the 98 on its side. The operator jumped clear. Fortunately, the machine tipped opposite of the operator who escaped injury from the incident.

# LOGGER'S SAVE THE DAY

By Galen Hamilton

We all go through the annual first-aid training with one thing on our minds ~“if someone on the crew gets hurt we want to be able to do our best to help them out”. This makes sense, since we are sitting in a “loggers survival” first-aid course with logging videos on the screen and everyone in the room is wearing either romeos, hickory shirts or a hat with some type of truck on it. But what happens when a person is needing first-aid, and is NOT a logger? That question was answered a couple of times recently in different areas of the state.

A car loaded with four elderly ladies unfortunately ran off a steep mountain road, apparently trying to reach a summer cabin. When a logging truck driver arrived at the scene, he realized this was a very serious situation and he needed some help. He let the crew know what had happened over the radio and the loggers responded immediately.

They kept the ladies as still as possible and even helped support their heads and necks while waiting for emergency help to arrive. They used their company first-aid supplies, their backboard and packed the injured to the waiting ambulance.

By coincidence only, I arrived at the accident scene later that afternoon. The injured were on their way to the hospital and the loggers were back to work. A police officer was still there helping the wrecker operator retrieve the vehicle. Visiting with the officer and not knowing what had gone on earlier, I mentioned I was the safety guy for the loggers and was on the way to a logging site. That is when he told me the story of what those “loggers” had done.

The officer let me know how impressed he was with not only the logger’s first-aid knowledge but how professionally they handled the situation. “This was a very tough and serious deal”. The loggers kept everything moving along and before you could believe it, all the victims were on the way to help. Without the help of those loggers, getting the ladies up to the road would have been a major problem.” See **LOGGER’S SAVE THE DAY** ~ Page 7

## SWAN VALLEY AMBULANCE SERVICE

P.O. Box 100  
Irwin, Idaho 83428  
Phone (208)483-2763

July 10, 2002

Wilcox Logging  
9169S 400W  
Rexburg, Idaho 83440

Dear Sir,

The Swan Valley Ambulance Service would like to thank the following individuals who assisted us in a very difficult rescue of four elderly women involved in an automobile accident above Palisades Reservoir.

Before arrival of the ambulance, these persons were quick to act and cleared the brush and small trees which were blocking access to the vehicle and would have prevented us from entering the vehicle. They also gloved up and assisted us with spinal immobilization, removal of the women from the vehicle and transport of the patients to the main highway below. All four patients were very seriously injured and time was most critical. The quick actions of your people directly contributed to saving the lives of three of the women.

Please convey our thanks to the following individuals:

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| Gary Wilcox  | Blaine Wilcox |
| Jake Wilcox  | Tim Huml      |
| Ramon Zaraga | Don Burt      |
| Josh Robson  | Dan Bailey    |

We would work with these people anytime!

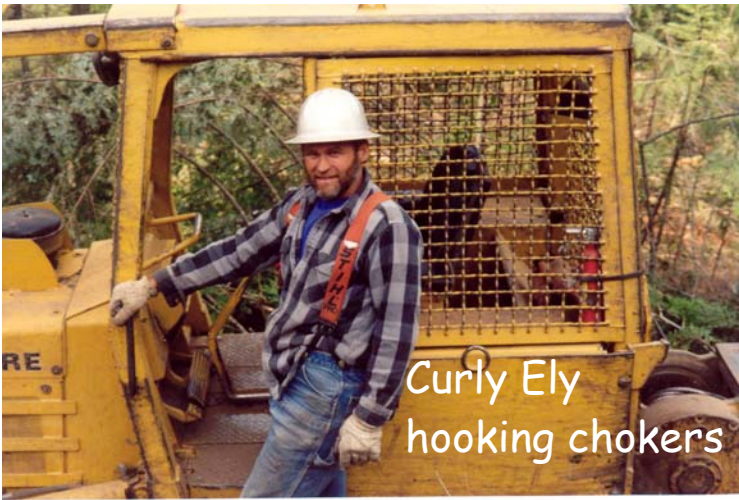
Sincerely,



Dean Philbrick  
Director, Swan Valley Fire and EMS



## ELY and SONS LOGGING ~ Potlatch, Idaho



Steve "Curly" Ely and his son Toby are currently logging on a strip of Potlatch Corporation timberland near Princeton. Toby does the falling and bucks the oversized logs at the landing. Curly skids and lines the strips out, builds trails and mechanics on the rigging. The smaller trees are made up with a slide boom delimber.

This small operation is very efficient with something to do for both loggers every second of the day. With only each other to watch out for this makes for a very safe operation.



Steve Lockard from Emida does the hauling with his self-loader truck

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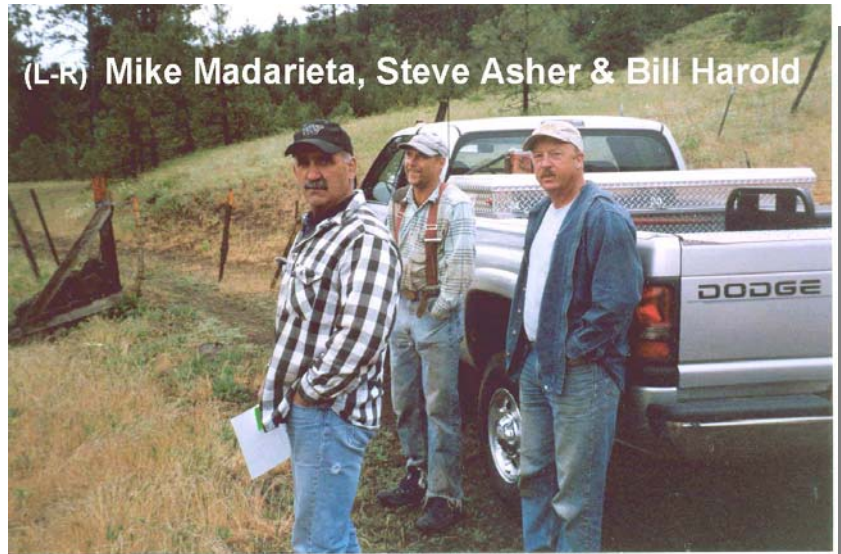
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# PROFESSIONALS DISCUSS SAFETY

*By Galen Hamilton*

Mike Madarieta, Madarieta Logging Inc., went over his company safety policies with his two fallers, Steve Asher and Bill Harold this spring before they started for the year. Even though Steve and Bill have worked for Madarieta for quite some time, Mike takes the time to discuss what he requires as far as safety goes.

One response I get from a few of the logging company owners out there when I point out a safety problem is “he knows better than that”! Well maybe they do, but just maybe they don’t.



(L-R) Mike Madarieta, Steve Asher & Bill Harold

Since they are my friends, I will use this crew as an example. You’ve got two loggers that have each been in the woods for well over twenty years. It would be very easy for Mike to assume that they know exactly what is expected of them as far as safety is concerned and just jump out of the pickup and yell at them to get to work. Instead he takes the time to discuss the policies so there will never be a misunderstanding. He also discusses log lengths and quality, which I know doesn’t have one thing to do with safety, but what a heck of a good time to cover all the bases.

One last thing -- I have been around when the owner or boss tries to go over safety policies and the crew gives him a bunch of unnecessary grief. I want to compliment Steve, Bill and other loggers like them that recognize the importance of a company making a commitment towards safety. I guess that is where the term “professional logger” comes into play.



## Accident Report

Over the years, every time we have made a video on eye protection, we have used the example of someone pounding on a cable cutter or punch and having a piece of metal fly into their eye. This is obviously an attempt to remind you loggers how important it is to protect yourself from eye injuries while doing those types of every day jobs. Here is a story a logging crew told to remind us safety guys there is more to protect than the eyes when doing those “every day” jobs.

During spring overhaul, a couple of loggers were working on driving out a pin that was a bit on the stubborn side. One logger was holding the punch and the other was operating the hammer. With eyes protected, the logger gave the hammer a mighty swing, and just like in our video, a chunk of the metal punch came flying off. But instead of hitting the fellow in the eye, it hit him in the side of the chest next to his shoulder. The piece of metal penetrated through his chest clear down to underneath his arm, where it still remains. See **ACCIDENT REPORT~ Page 5**



## WOMEN IN TIMBER ~ Connie Deyo

This is Connie Deyo from Orofino. She has been driving one of these logging trucks for over 20 years and does an excellent job. She drives about any kind of truck and was running the self-loader truck on this particular day for Alvin Spencer. For your information guys, she has never wrecked or dumped a load while driving a log truck.



## Scott Kenki

can and does do any job on their logging site. The day I got this picture it was extremely hot and Scott was working on a bunch of pretty big white fir that had limbs from the stump to the top. He was making a lot of sawdust and a lot of sweat. I always enjoy going on Kenki's jobs because they have a good attitude and believe in keeping their people safe.

## ***ACCIDENT REPORT*** ~ Page 4

Luckily the metal just missed the artery that runs out the arm, but even with that it bled profusely. With no pressure point, they kept stacking the bandages until they finally got the bleeding under control.

The doctor said there would be less damage done leaving the metal where it was than digging it out. He also said that if the metal would have been a little one way or another it could have, in fact, been life threatening just like a bullet.

## **ACCIDENT**

We had an accident where a young man had his saw kick back and cut his leg just under and beside his chaps. This ended up being a pretty major lost time accident and was very costly. Everyone needs to make sure they have the right chaps to fit for length and make sure they cover the vulnerable parts of the leg-- That's clear down to the boot top.

I know that in the not so distant past we were very happy if you just had your chaps on and now we are upping the ante. We want you to be as safe as you can be.

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# PROFESSIONAL STUDY ON SEVERAL SAFETY ISSUES

By Galen Hamilton

Now, if you happen to run into some southern Idaho loggers trying to spin some kind of yarn about a logging safety guy falling down on their job and jamming a broken off limb up into his underarm, don't fall for it. Being the true safety professional that I am, and not wanting to ever ask you loggers to concern yourself over any so called safety hazards, I figured it was my duty to find out just how much of a hazard they are. With this in mind, over the hill I went. Since this was sort of incognito work I disguised myself as an over weight, bald headed, logging safety advisor in search of an elusive timber faller.

Next, I needed to set the scene. Since I have noticed that sometimes loggers get in a hurry, I decided to act like I actually had somewhere else to go that afternoon, thus setting a pace my coordination had no chance of keeping up with. For safety equipment I was wearing a darn good pair of worn out boots grandpa had given me after years of bragging about how good they worked for him back in the 50's -- none of those fancy ones with the nails sticking out of the bottom! Lastly, I was paying absolutely no attention whatsoever. Instead of watching what was going on at that immediate moment, I was looking way down the hill at not one thing important. It was perfect!

It was now time to test out the hazards. A bull pine blown over several years earlier with real loose bark, a steep embankment directly on the other side of the tree and some very sharp, broken off limbs protruding from the snag provided the setting. It doesn't get any better!

I knew the test was under way when my feet didn't even slow down when I jumped up on the tree. Bark flew out, but since I was dressed in my overweight, baldheaded safety guy outfit, I went straight down, catching myself at the last second with my armpit on one of those broken off bull pine



limbs. I continued to play out the scenario, turning directly around and heading toward my pickup, even acting like it really, really hurt.

I thought I would sneak off of that job without being spotted by any of those lumberjacks. With the tears on my face and the moisture running down both of my legs, I was concerned those loggers would get the wrong idea

about my threshold to pain. I was on the way out when I was spotted by a cat skinner standing next to the road. He said he thought he had run over a cougar or something a few minutes earlier. "I heard the most pathetic whining and howling and it echoed all the way down the canyon." The boss showed up about then holding his ears. He thought the bearings went out on one of his machines. It was then that I told the two loggers about my study I had just completed on some of the safety hazards out here in the woods.

After watching the look on the logger's face as he took a quick look at the injury, I decided it was time for my next study to get underway---

***EMERGENCY RESCUE!!!***

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## ACCIDENT

A hooker received a fractured arm when he was struck by a whip that siwashed around the hill when he gave the go-ahead on a drag of tree lengths. Hookers must take the time to get in the clear before giving the signal. This is difficult on tree-length-strips because hookers have to travel a lot more distance than on log-length strips. This logger will return to work shortly because it was not a serious break. The man saw the whip coming and put his arm up to protect his face. This could have been a lot more serious if the man had not seen the whip coming.



## Lloyd Sanderson, Jason Mattson, & Travis Teats “willingly”

volunteered to help us with a first-aid video for next spring. These fellows work on one of Steve Henderson’s line crews and gave up part of their lunchtime to help us out. As usual nobody wanted to be on camera, but when the film started rolling they did an excellent job. **Thanks guys!**



**Erv Meeks** is a logger from the Coeur d’Alene area. On the day I got this picture he was hauling logs for Dan and Gus Roth. Erv has worked for Gus off and on for more years than either one wants to remember. Erv is a good logger and can handle any job in the woods.

## ACCIDENT

A hooker escaped serious injury while working on a swing yarder. He had been hooking on a stationary tower side but had been moved that morning to a swing machine. The crew had just started on a new set and he forgot about the boom swinging to the side to deck. He suddenly found himself on the wrong side of the skyline. Thanks to some quick thinking, he dove flat on the ground until the skyline tightened and cleared him. Obviously, the closer you are to the yarder the more the line can move. Machines with long booms can really whip the skyline from side to side when the operator is decking logs and the hooker that ends up with the skyline behind him is WAY too close. Several hookers have been injured by the stopper on older carriages because the stopper will really get to whipping around when the machine is decking.

### LOGGER’S SAVE THE DAY ~ Page 2

On the other side of the state a few days later, some other loggers were put to the test. The mother of a family out camping got into a pickle when a bee stung her. The family knew they had a problem and started heading to the city. They happened to be traveling through a very small town when the situation became critical. A logger responded to their plea for help. By then the mother’s airway was swelled enough that she could no longer breathe for herself. The logger began giving her mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. As another logger and his wife drove up, the situation became worse. Because of the increase in swelling, the first logger was having a harder and harder time getting any air into the victim. I probably need to be a little vague here, but let’s just say because of some very quick thinking by the second logger and his wife (she attended this year’s first-aid class), the victim received some bee sting vaccine and was breathing on her own minutes later.

Shortly thereafter, the helicopter was on the scene. When the emergency person was told how the situation was handled her response was simple, “YOU SAVED THE LADY’S LIFE”. One other thing that impressed the heck out of her was the fact that those individuals got involved in the first place. She said that in almost all cases people usually stand back, not wanting to get involved. Typical loggers, always in the way! **GOOD JOB GUYS AND GAL!!!**



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